

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

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|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Theodore W. Houston et al. | Docket No.: TI-23546 |
| Serial No: TBD | Examiner: TBD |
| Filed: 11/08/01 | Art Unit: TBD |
| For: MEANS FOR FORMING SOI | |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

November 8, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

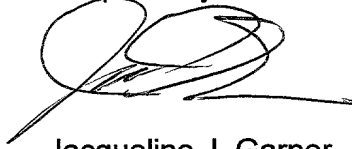
Page 1, before line 1, insert --This application claims priority under 35 USC § 119(e)(1) of provisional applications number **60/259,400** filed **12/30/00**.--

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,



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FOOTNOTES